

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member
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Residents of District E,

Welcome to the July newsletter for the District E Council Office. This issue highlights some important activities for the district and for the City of Houston. I urge you to read it, and to forward it to your friends and neighbors.

City Council passed a record budget in June, but I voted against it because it did not set priorities that I think serve my constituents well. In addition, I cannot support a budget that proposes to both cut police overtime and reduce the number of cadet classes. Virtually every corner of my district is seeing an up tick in property crime, and while "Part One" crimes might be down, we need to do a better job fighting property crime in our communities. My constituents deserve better.

And, speaking of the Houston Police Department, I want to extend my condolences to the family of HPD Senior Officer Henry Canales. He gave his life in the line of duty, but will forever be remembered. Officer Canales was married and had two teenage children.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

Woodland Hills Bridge Update

After days of heavy rain in April, a portion of Woodland Hills Drive collapsed developing a large sinkhole that measured about 21 by 24 feet wide and about 10 feet deep. The Public Works Department has been working nonstop since then to repair the hole to allow residents access to the road and the neighboring Rivergrove Park.

Council Member Sullivan has met with Tray Wingate, Assistant Director of the Street and Bridge Maintenance Branch of Public Works, on site to look at the progress of the construction and discuss the status of completion. The road is scheduled to open at the end of July.



*Dick McGucken, Ray Anderson
and Council Member Sullivan*

“B”atteries “O”il “P”aint and “A” Visits Kingwood



*Council Member Sullivan, Hal Opperman
and a Solid Waste employee*

On Saturday, June 6th, Council Member Sullivan hosted the first B.O.P.A recycling event in District E that allowed residents in Kingwood the opportunity to drop off batteries, oil, paint, antifreeze and e-waste.

Kingwood was one of many stops the City of Houston made for residents to drop off hard to dispose of items.

The main drop off center is located at 5900 Westpark.

Boy Scout Troop 8 Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On June 6th, Troop 8 of the Boy Scout's of America hosted a 20 year celebration of its founding and a reunion of Scouts and Scouters. Council Member Sullivan attended and spoke at the event, held at Strawbridge Methodist Church. He also presented the troop with a certificate of appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication to the Boy Scouts of America and to the community.



*Ron Sunket and Council Member Mike
Sullivan*

Kingwood Concrete Repairs Begin

Beginning July 7th, the Public Works Department will begin concrete repairs on major Kingwood thoroughfares. Crews will work on Kingwood Drive, Northpark Drive, Woodland Hills Drive, West Lake Houston Parkway and other streets on Willow Terrace Drive. Construction will only take place on one road at a time.

In the early planning stage, Council Member Sullivan sent a request to Kingwood residents to get their input on what streets needed repair. Those lists were compiled and sent to Public Works.

Construction should be complete within 60 to 90 days.

Kingwood Library Construction Progress



The new 30,000 square foot Kingwood Library is under construction and moving along right on schedule. Council Member Sullivan is provided an aerial photograph of the construction site the first week of every month. Starting with this newsletter, the previous month's photo will be published so you can see the progress being made. Council Member Sullivan would like to thank SpawGlass Contractors for their hard work in keeping this project on schedule.

Changes to Trash Pickup

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind residents of Kingwood of Solid Waste's new trash pick up schedule that took place at the end of June. In efforts to improve service, provide better customer service and save taxpayer dollars Solid Waste has streamlined some of their routes.

Please note that heavy trash and recycling collection schedules are not changing. However, regular automated trash and recycling pick up may not be collected on the same day. As this is a temporary situation, Solid waste anticipates for the days to be aligned around September or October.

Also, please note that these changes do not affect neighborhoods that are provided with private service.

Project Updates

- Right turn lanes have been approved for all directions at the intersection of Kingwood Drive and West Lake Houston Parkway.
- The new Kingwood Library will be complete by December.
- Designs are underway for a new community center.
- Widening of Northpark is under design.
- Culverts have been installed at Dogwood Acres.
- Storm water drain upgraded.
- Three new HPD uniformed officers have been assigned to the Kingwood substation.

Council Member Sullivan Attends Sagemont Civic Club Meeting

On Monday, June 8th, Council Member Sullivan attended Sagemont Civic Club's monthly meeting. The members discussed how to reinstitute deed restrictions in their neighborhood and the process involved in making it happen. Council Member is assisting the club by lending his name to sign up home owners. He is also suggesting residents to set up a booth at a local establishment to gain supporters of reorganizing new rules for the Sagemont neighborhood.

Council Member Sullivan Tours Sky Scraper Shadows



On June 8, in response to several calls regarding heavy trash violations in the Sky Scraper Shadows neighborhood, Council Member Sullivan and two of his staff members toured the area with the president of the neighborhood's Civic Club, Hermon Gonzalez, to see the problem first hand. He and his staff took notes and pictures of the properties in violation and are in the process of cleaning up the neighborhood.

*Hermon Gonzalez, Georgia Auderer,
Council Member Sullivan and Lauren Doak*

Meadowcreek Village Civic Club Meeting

On June 11th, Council Member Sullivan attended Meadowcreek Village's monthly civic club meeting. The main topic discussed was crime. Sergeant Cruz from the Houston Police Department cited that violent and property crimes have decreased by one percent. Another topic discussed was the increasing presence of illegal game rooms located along S. Richey Rd.

Council Member Sullivan and the Houston Police Department are working together to relieve the area of such game rooms.



Council Member Sullivan, Mary Ann Perez and Cathy Spacek

Project Updates

- Edgebrook construction is complete and now open.
- South Shaver extension paving is planned to start in summer 2010.
- J.S. Bracewell Library is set to open at the end of 2009.
- Monroe Road improvements are under construction and are set to be completed by Dec. 31, 2009.
- METRO has added additional bus trips to the afternoon Fuqua Park and Ride service.

Clear Lake Satellite Office Opens

District E has a new satellite office in Clear Lake located at 17629 El Camino Real, Suite 415. The new office space gives southern constituents the opportunity to receive face to face contact with a representative from District E, and is open every Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm, or by appointment.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Lauren Doak at 832.393.3008.



Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership Hosts 81st Legislative Update and Reception

Council Member Sullivan joined BAHEP's Political Protocol Committee in welcoming Texas Legislatures Senator Mike Jackson and Representatives John Davis, Larry Taylor, Wayne Smith and Ken Legler at the 81st Legislative Update and Reception on June 24th.

The event rallied local community leaders and politicians to receive an update on what our local representatives participated in and witnessed during this years legislative session in Austin. Participants discussed subjects such as transportation, Texas Wind Insurance and what they would like to be called during this year's special session.

Clear Lake Lacrosse Association Welcomes Council Member Sullivan

On Monday, June 1st, Lajuana Porter of the Clear Lake Lacrosse Association welcomed Council Member Sullivan to the association's monthly meeting to provide an update on the fields and construction progress of Sylvan Rodriguez Park.

Council Member Sullivan commented that there is currently \$1 million identified in the Capital Improvement Plan for Sylvan Rodriguez Park. He further outlined the first phase of construction, mentioned the Friends of Sylvan Rodriguez Park Program and identified the long term goals for the long range master plan.



Council Member Sullivan and members of the Clear Lake Lacrosse Association

Council Member Sullivan Visits Brook Forest



Thomas Coyne and Council Member Sullivan

Over the past several weeks, concerned residents of Brook Forest in Clear Lake have contacted District E's office about people cutting through and speeding down their street. On June 22nd, Council Member Sullivan visited the neighborhood and spoke with resident Thomas Coyne. Coyne, who has lived in the neighborhood for 10 years, has seen an increase of traffic and speed over the past few years.

Council Member Sullivan has increased HPD's presence and has suggested a traffic study and possibly the installation of more street signs to help alleviate the problem.

Project Updates

- The Clear Lake traffic study is underway. A report will be issued this month.
- Concrete repairs continue on major Clear Lake area thoroughfares.
- Three new uniformed HPD officers have been assigned to the Clear Lake substation.

North Sector Manager



Autumn Jodzio is our North Sector Manager. She joined District E's team originally as an intern in spring 2008, and was hired on full time after finishing her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Houston.

She has lived in District E most of her life and is familiar with Kingwood and surrounding areas.

South Sector Manager

Lauren Doak joined the District E team in February as the South Sector Manager, and is primarily responsible for constituent services for the Clear Lake and South Belt areas. She recently moved back to the Houston area from Austin, where she graduated from St. Edward's University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication.

She is also the representative that will run the Clear Lake office, and the one to contact if an appointment needs to be scheduled.



District E Pays Respects to HPD Officer Henry Canales



On the night of June 23, 2009, Officer Henry Canales died in the line of duty while investigating undercover stolen televisions near Hillcroft and Bellaire.

Council Member Sullivan and his staff attended Officer Canales' funeral on Monday, June 29th, to pay their respects to him, his family and the Houston Police Department.

Officer Canales served with the Houston Police Department for 16 years and will always be remembered and appreciated for his selfless service, badge of honor and acts of courage. His picture is hung on District E's Wall of Honor next to the other fallen HPD Officers and HFD Fire Fighters that have lost their lives during Council Member Sullivan's time in office.

District E Hosts Hurricane Town Hall

Council Member Sullivan is hosting a town hall meeting for District E constituents on how to better prepare for this year's hurricane season. Residents will be provided information on what to do if Houston faces another hurricane this year. Representatives from the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management, Harris County's Office of Emergency Management, Transtar, Houston Fire Department and the Houston Police Department will give a presentation and will be available for questions afterwards.

The meeting will be held at the University of Houston – Clear Lake on July 7th at 6:30 pm.

For more information, please contact Karina Moreno at 832.393.3008.

Flooding and Drainage Town Hall

Council Member Sullivan invites you to attend a Flooding and Drainage Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, July 21st at San Jacinto College – South Campus. Representatives from the offices of Congressman Pete Olson, Congressman John Davis, Harris County Flood Control District, Commissioner El Franco Lee, Commissioner Sylvia Garcia and the U.S. Army Core of Engineers will be in attendance.

For more information, please contact Karina Moreno at 832.393.3008.

Council Votes on City of Houston Budget

While Council Member Sullivan worked on the budget process this year, he saw firsthand that it was a responsible budget in that there were no property tax rate increases, that expenditures did not exceed population and inflation, etc. While that is good, he believes they could have done much better. The administration touts that taxes did not go up, but they did in fact increase. While the tax rate did not go up, your taxes will. Why? Because valuations are still rising across the area.

Council Member Sullivan did not view the budget as meeting priorities and that is why he voted against it. Only Council Member Pam Holm joined him in casting a "no" vote.

HPD Opens New Property Room

On June 18, Council Member Sullivan joined Mayor Bill White and Chief Harold Hurtt at the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the Houston Police Department's new Property Room. The new 11,000 square foot facility will house approximately 95,000 pieces of evidence a year and features moveable shelving and climate control attributes. Chief Hurtt presented the first piece of evidence to be stored in the new facility following the ribbon cutting.



Council Member James Rodriguez, Chief Hurtt, Issa Dadoush, and Council Member Mike Sullivan

Council Member Sullivan Congratulates Cadet Class 203



Council Member Sullivan joins a Cadet from Class 203 and a fellow Officer

On June 16th, Class 203 gave their final roll call as they graduated from the Houston Police Academy. Council Member Sullivan attended the ceremony to congratulate the 74 new Houston Police Officers who will be serving and protecting the City of Houston.

Council Member Sullivan appreciates and supports Class 203 and all officers' pledge to courage, dedication and concern.

80th Southern Regional Conference and Youth Retreat

Council Member Sullivan helped welcome Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc to Houston who hosted their 80th Regional Conference and Youth Retreat at the Marriot Houston Hobby.

Council Member welcomed the sorority to Houston by attending their breakfast and extending a warm appreciation for their charitable programs and community service they provide to women, men, youth and seniors.



Council Member Sullivan, Beth Kelley and Council Member Adams

Council Member Sullivan Tours the USO



Council Member Sullivan and USO Volunteer

Earlier in June, Council Member Sullivan visited and toured the current USO facility at Bush Intercontinental Airport where are our military personnel receives comfort, morale and recreational services.

Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity to speak with volunteers and walk the grounds of where our military men, women and families spend their time getting acquainted with new surroundings and situations.

According to the Houston Airport System, the new facility for the USO is set to open in September of this year.